



# ***New Jersey Violent Death Reporting System***

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# What is the NJVDRS?

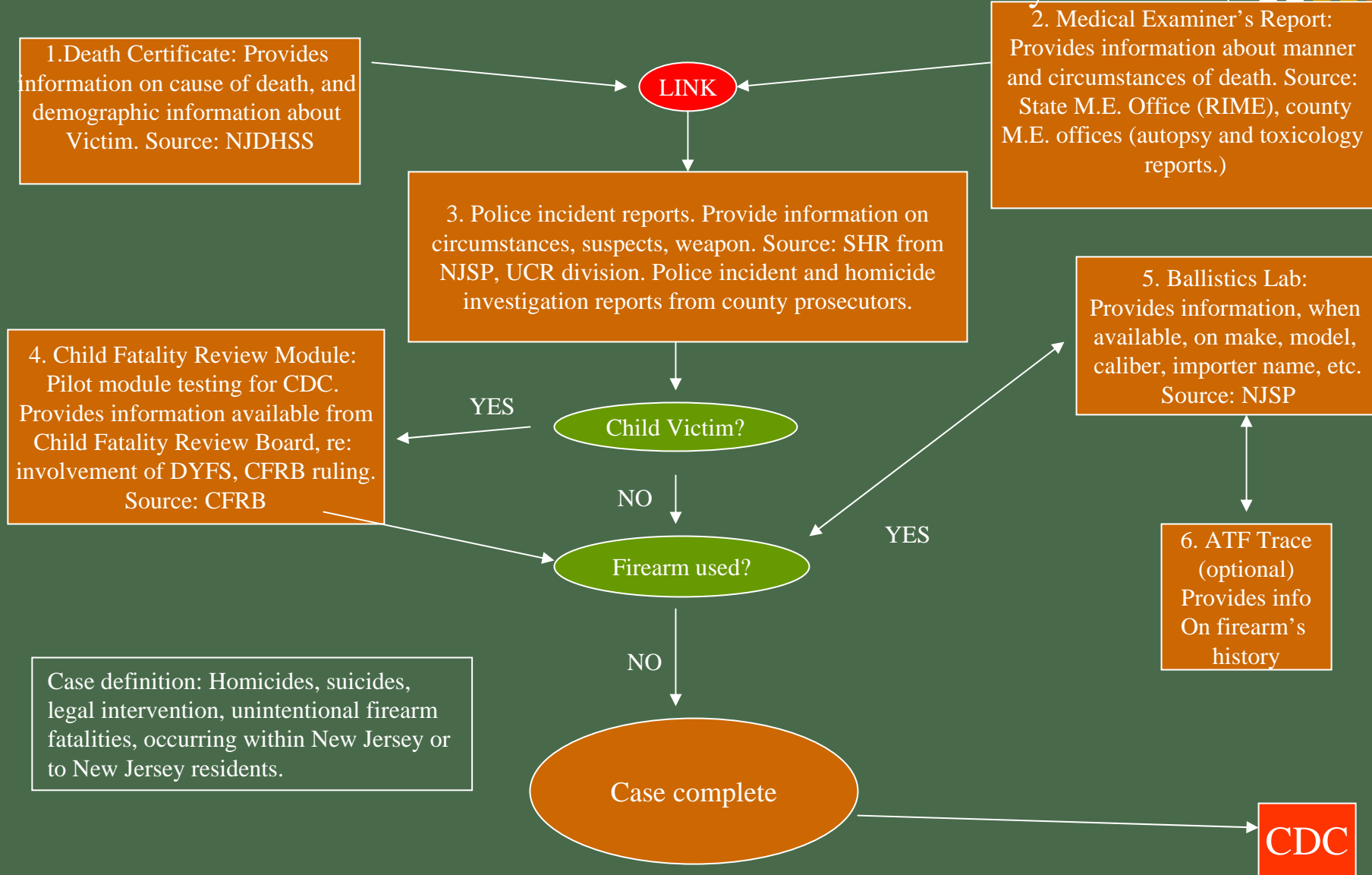
- Part of a CDC-funded surveillance system (NVDRS)
- Combines data from multiple sources
- Standard coding practices
- Specialized software
- Seventeen states currently participate
- NVDRS is incident-based
- Modeled after a project initiated by Harvard (NVISS)
- Also modeled after FARS



# Scope:

- Suicides
- Homicides
- Unintentional firearm deaths
- Injury deaths of undetermined intent
- Deaths by legal intervention
- Beginning with January 1, 2003 events
- All deaths that meet the criteria occurring in New Jersey or to New Jersey residents regardless of location

# Violent Death Surveillance in New Jersey





# Data Sources:

Death certificates

Report of Investigation by Medical Examiner (RIME)

Supplemental Homicide Reports (SHR)

Domestic Violence Reports

County Prosecutor files

Ballistics Reports

New Jersey Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board



# Goal:

**...to develop a detailed and comprehensive understanding of all homicides and suicides and use that understanding to aid prevention efforts.**

# NJVDRS



- Located in the Office of Injury Surveillance and Prevention, Center for Health Statistics, NJDHSS
- Partner: The Violence Institute, UMDNJ

# Homicide in New Jersey, 2003



- 449 total homicides
- 91 Family/Intimate Partner homicides
- 60 Intimate Partner homicides
- 13 Murder/Suicides
- 10 Intimate Partner Murder/Suicides

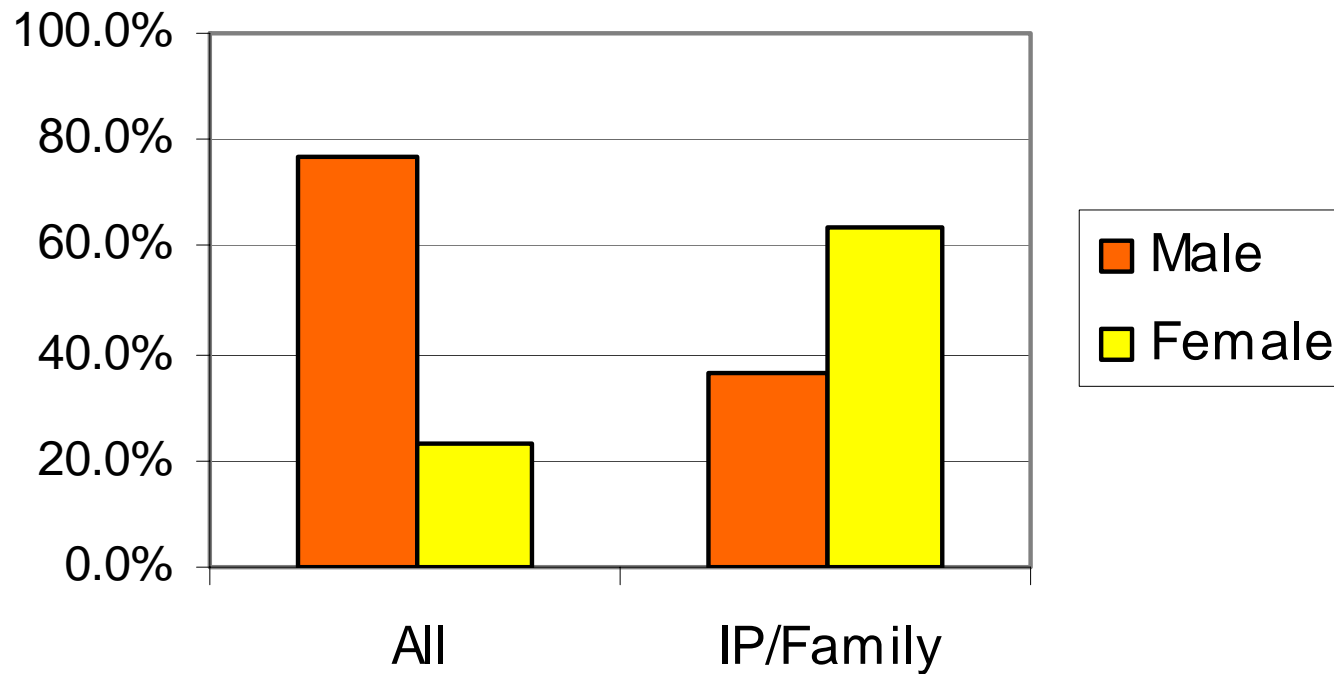


# Family/Intimate Partner homicide



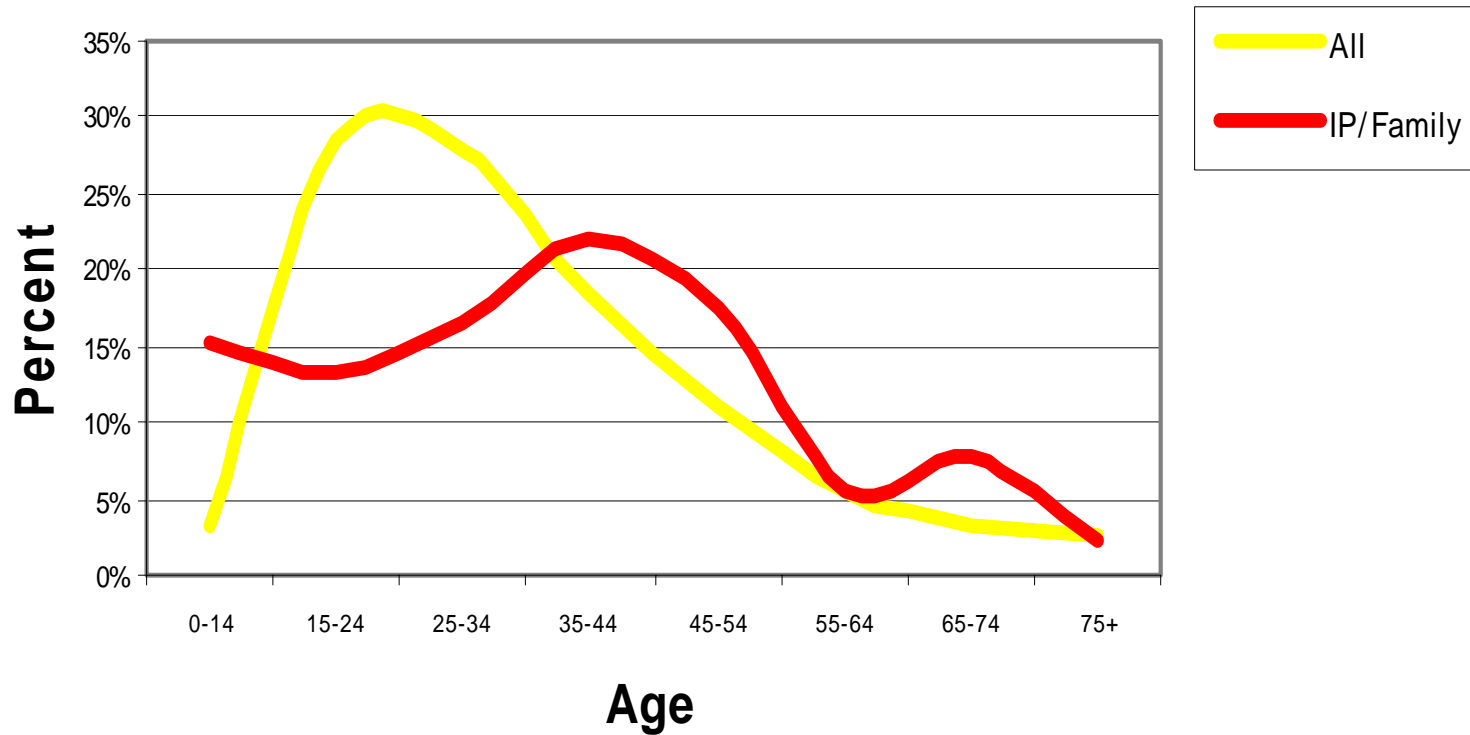


# Gender of homicide victims

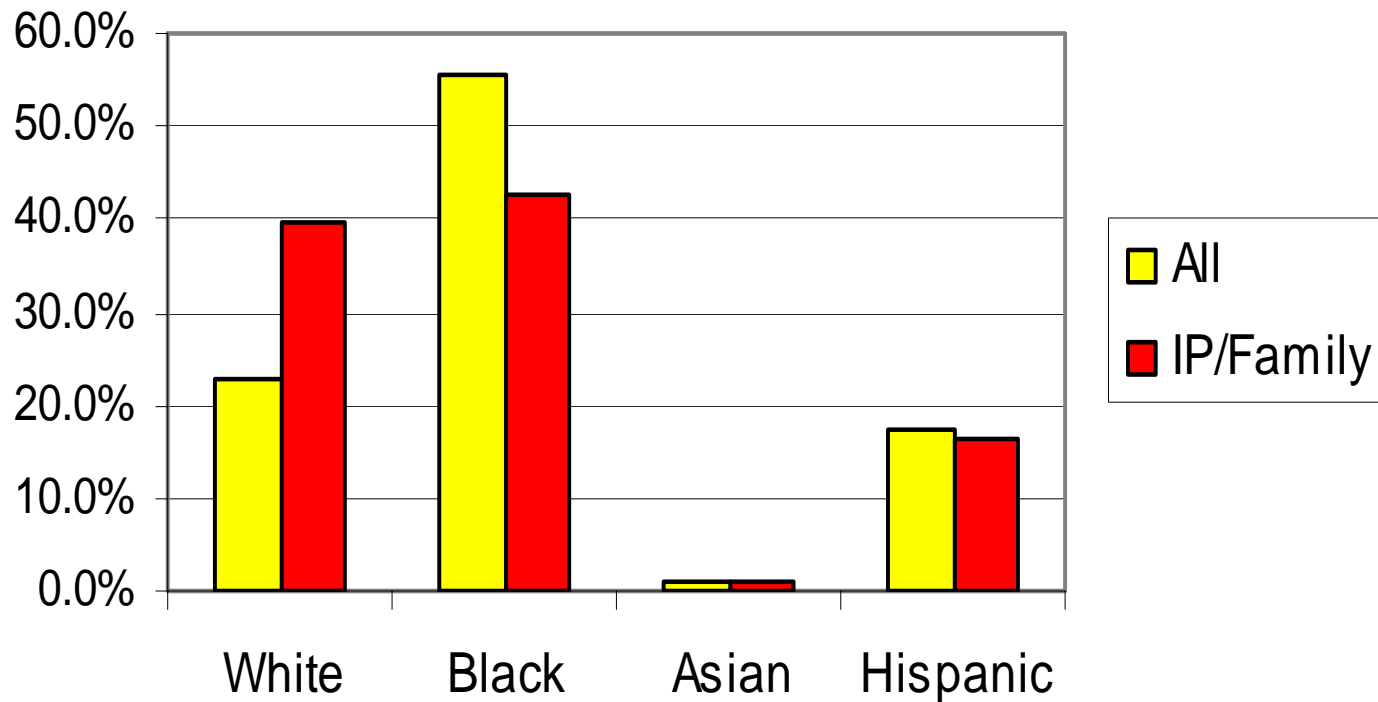




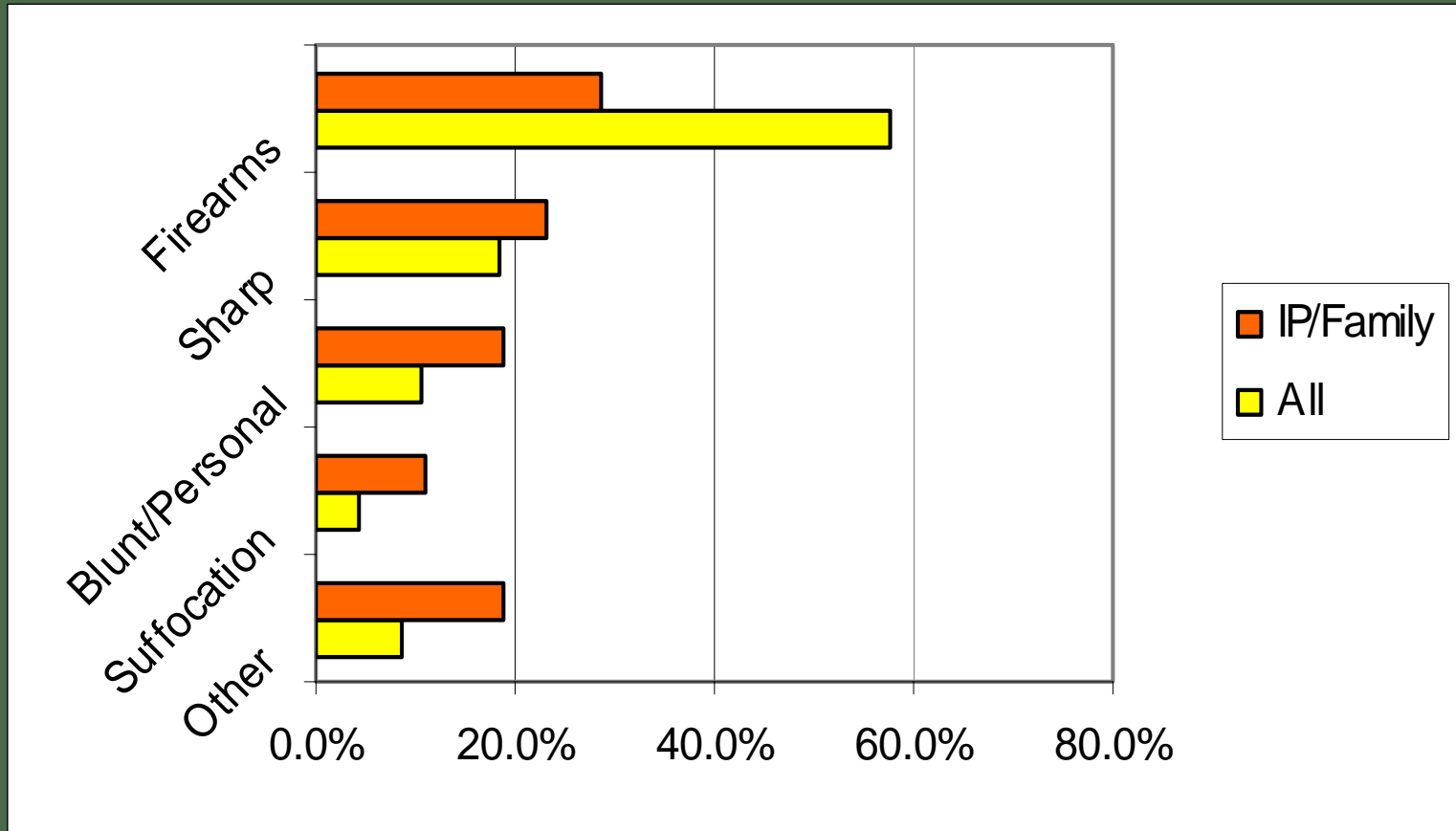
# Age of homicide victims



# Race/ethnicity of homicide victims



# Weapon used in homicides



# Marital status by race and ethnicity, intimate partner/ family violence victims, 2003



	White		Black		Hispanic	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Married	9	25.0	12	30.8	5	33.3
Never married	12	33.3	23	59.0	8	53.3
Widowed	5	13.9	2	*	0	*
Divorced	10	27.8	2	*	2	*
All	36	39.6	39	42.8	15	16.5

# Weapons by race/ethnicity, Family/IP homicides



	White		Black		Hispanic	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Firearms	10	27.8	11	28.2	5	33.3
Sharp instrument	4	11.1	11	28.2	5	33.3
Blunt/ personal	9	25.0	6	15.4	2	*
Suffocation	5	13.9	3	*	2	*
Other	8	22.2	8	20.5	1	*

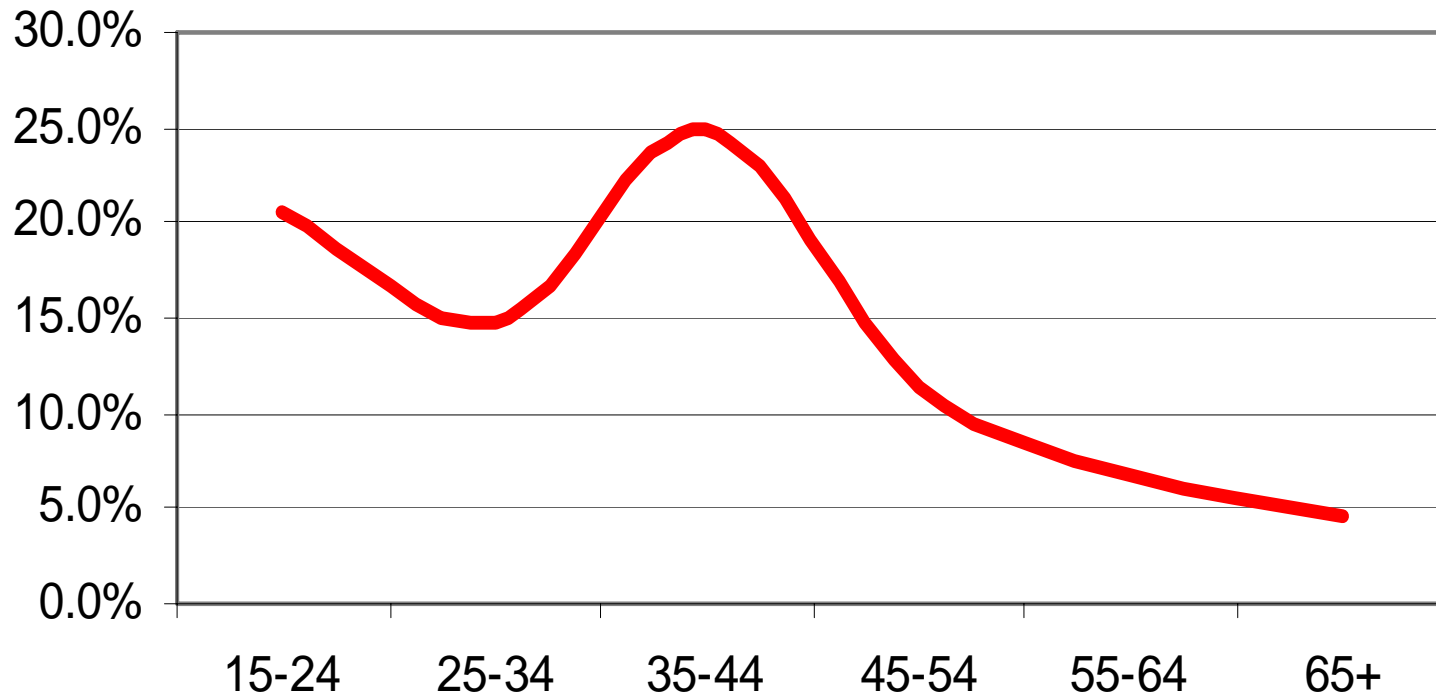
# Weapon by marital status, intimate partner/family violence



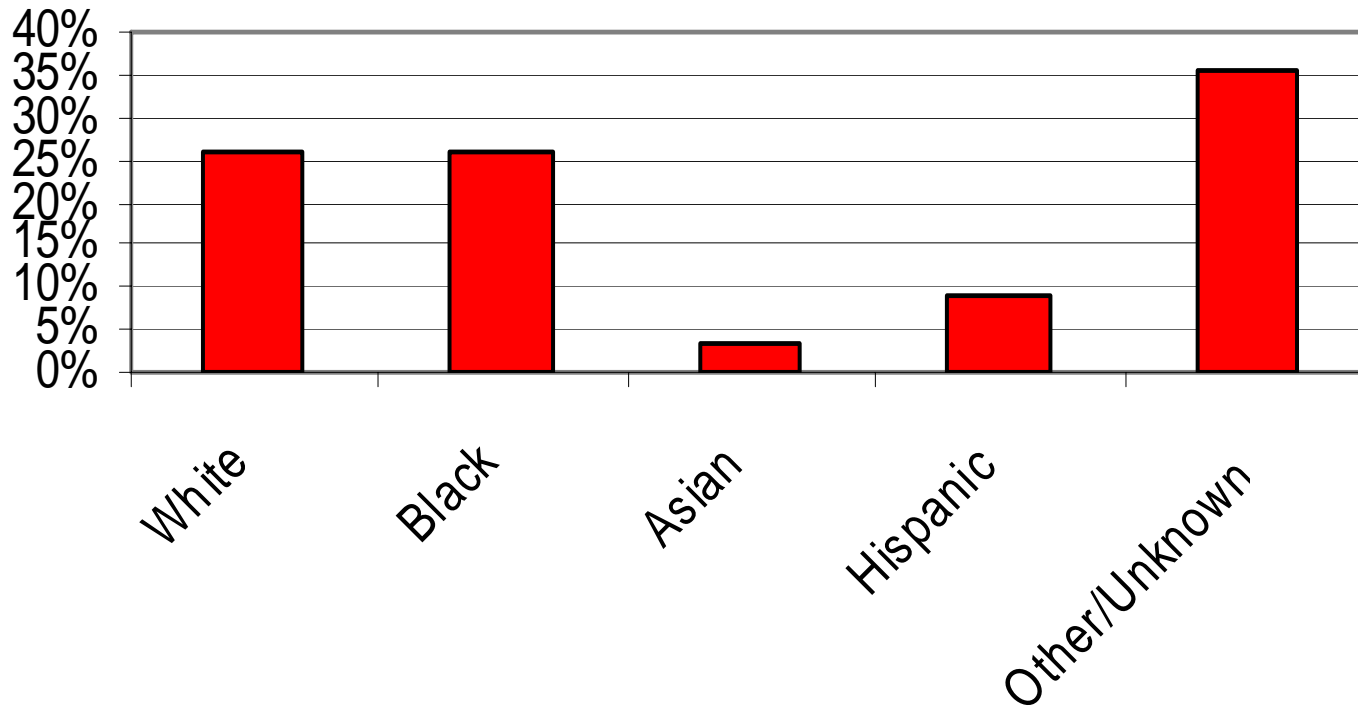
	Married		Never married		Widowed/Divorced		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Firearms	9	34.6	10	22.7	7	26.9	26	28.6
Sharp Instrument	7	26.9	11	25.0	3	*	21	23.1
Blunt/Personal	2	*	9	20.5	6	35.3	17	18.7
Suffocation	2	*	4	*	4	*	10	11.0
Other	6	23.1	10	22.7	1	*	17	18.7
All	26	28.6	44	48.4	21	23.1	91	100.0



# Age of perpetrators of family/IP homicides



# Race/ethnicity of perpetrators of family/IP homicides





# IP homicides

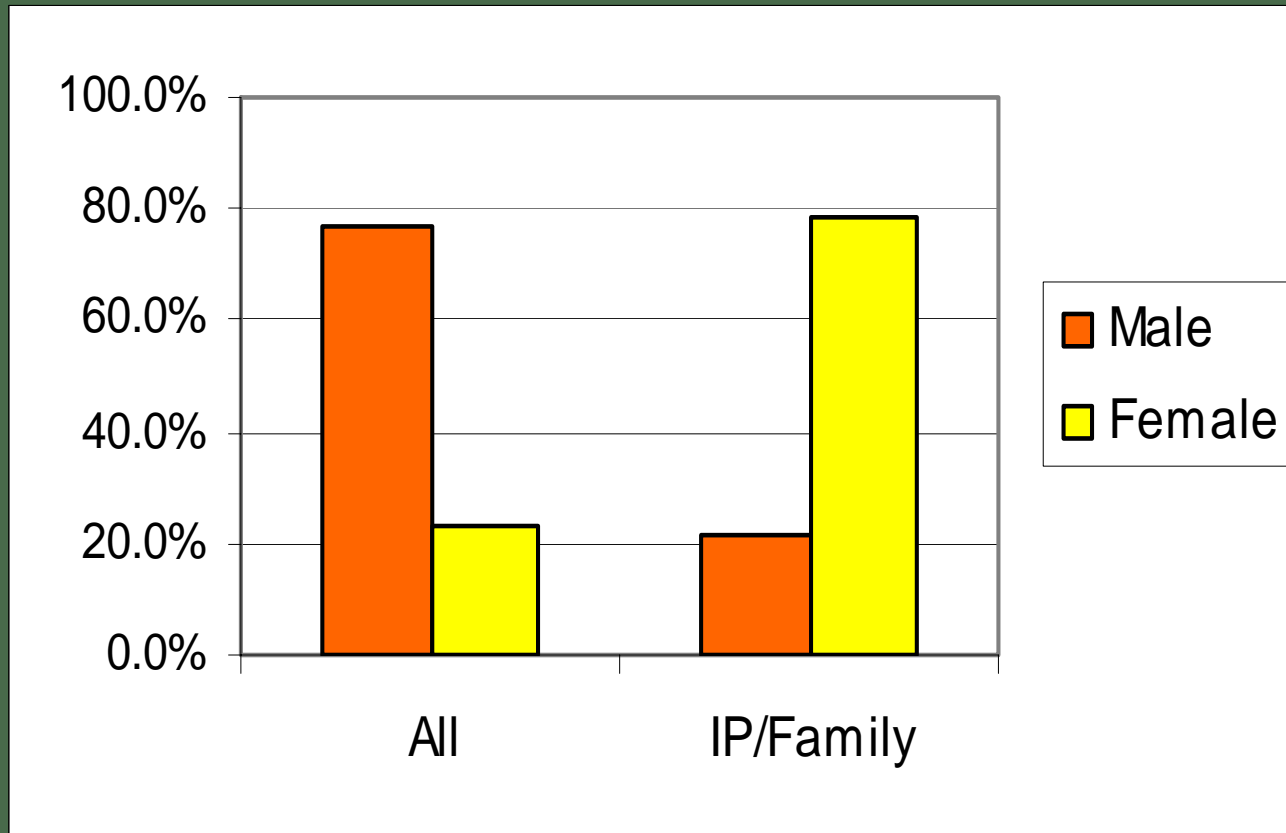
- There were 55 Intimate Partner homicide incidents in 2003, resulting in 59 deaths
- 55 deaths were to intimate partners
- 4 deaths to related minor children
- In 10 incidents, (@18%), the suspect committed suicide



## IP homicides – relation to suspect

Boyfriend/Girlfriend	34	
Ex-boyfriend/girlfriend	14	
Spouse	16	
Separated or divorced	5	
Incest/Family member	2	
Same sex partner	3	
Children of suspect or victim	4	

# Gender of IP homicide victims

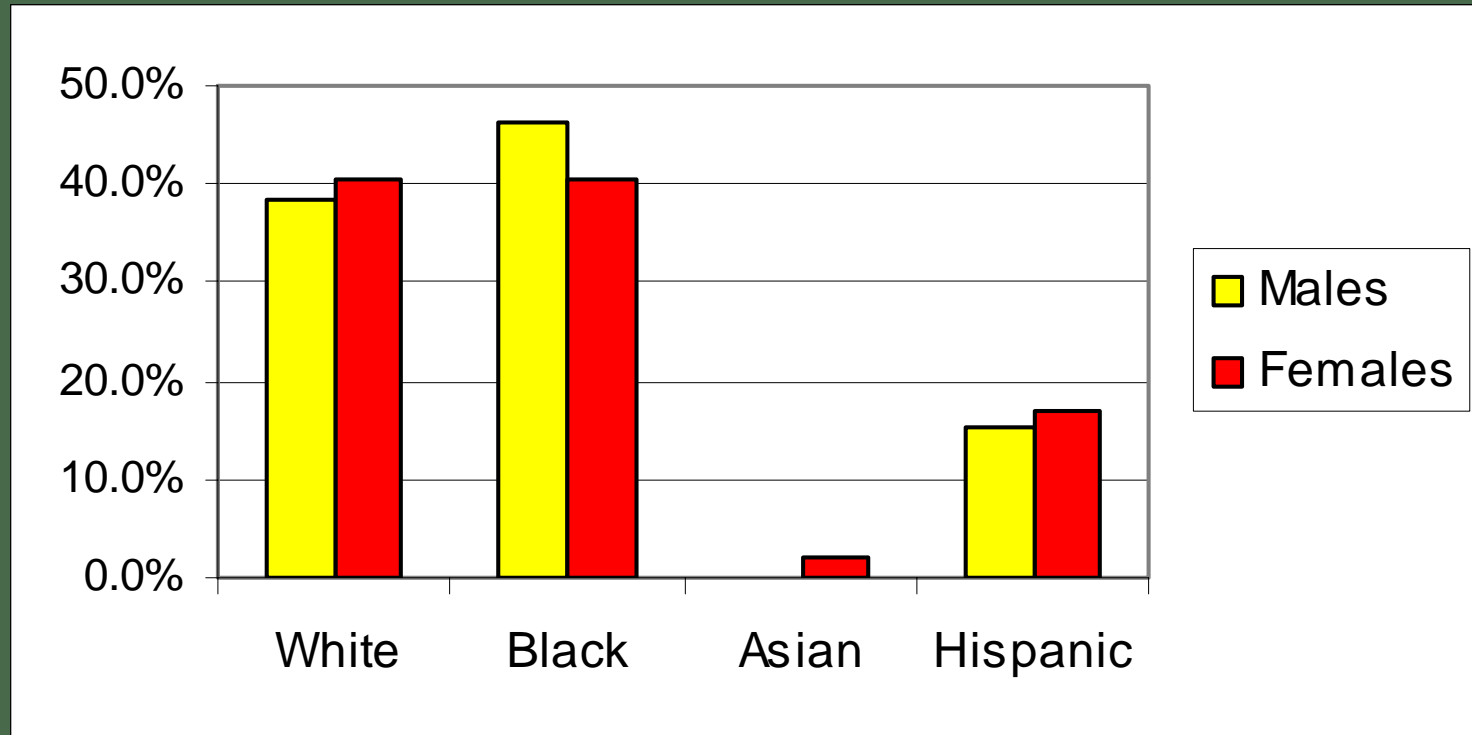




# Age of IP homicide victims

- Average age of male victim : 40
- Average age of female victim: 37
- Range for males: 2 to 73
- Range for females: 5 to 78
- 7 victims under age 18
- 5 victims age 65 years or older

# Race/ethnicity of victims by gender



# Weapons used in IP homicides



- Firearms: 32%
- Sharp instruments: 23%
- Blunt/Personal: 17%
- Suffocation: 8%

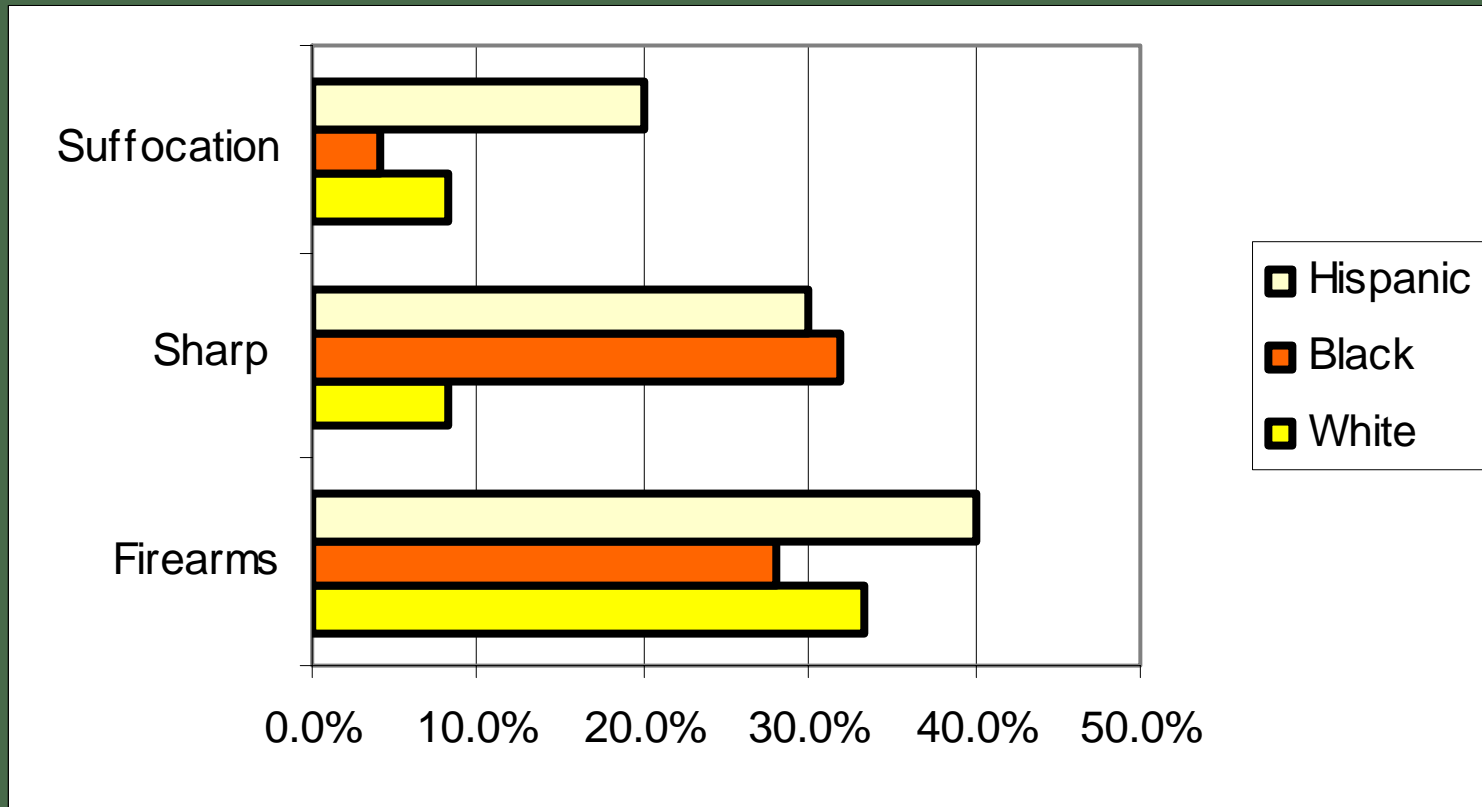




# Weapon by gender of victim

- 38% of females v. 8% of males were shot
- 19% of females v. 38% of males were stabbed
- 11% of females and no males were suffocated

# Weapon by race/ethnicity





# Marital status

- Married – 33%
- Single – 40%
- Widowed – 8%
- Divorced/Separated – 17%



# Marital status and weapon

- Married and widowed victims most likely to be shot (35% and 40%)
- Never married victims most likely to be stabbed (29%)
- Divorced victims most likely to be killed with blunt/personal weapons (40%)

# Circumstances: substance use



- Victim intoxicated: 40%
- Known history of domestic violence: 14%

# NVDRS data collection on IPV



- Will be adding variables to better measure:
  - Status of relationship i.e. “current” v. “former” partner
  - History of prior violence – including restraining order
  - Other circumstances

# Murder-Suicide



# Murder-suicide in New Jersey



There were 73 incidents of murder/suicide from  
1996 to 2003

73 suicides, or 1.6% of 4,589 suicides  
89 homicides, or 3.2% of 2,785 homicides

6.8% of suicides were women  
70.8% of homicides were women

12.4% of homicide victims were under 18 years  
old



# Murder-Suicide in New Jersey



- 2003 rate: .36 /100,000 population, similar to national figures
- Florida believed to have nation's highest rate
- Difficulty with measurement – role of NVDRS

# Major types of murder-suicide



- Intimate partner
  - Male sexual jealousy/romantic triangle
  - Older married couple
- “Familicide”
  - Male kills intimate partner and children
  - Adult child kills parents

# Murder suicide among the elderly



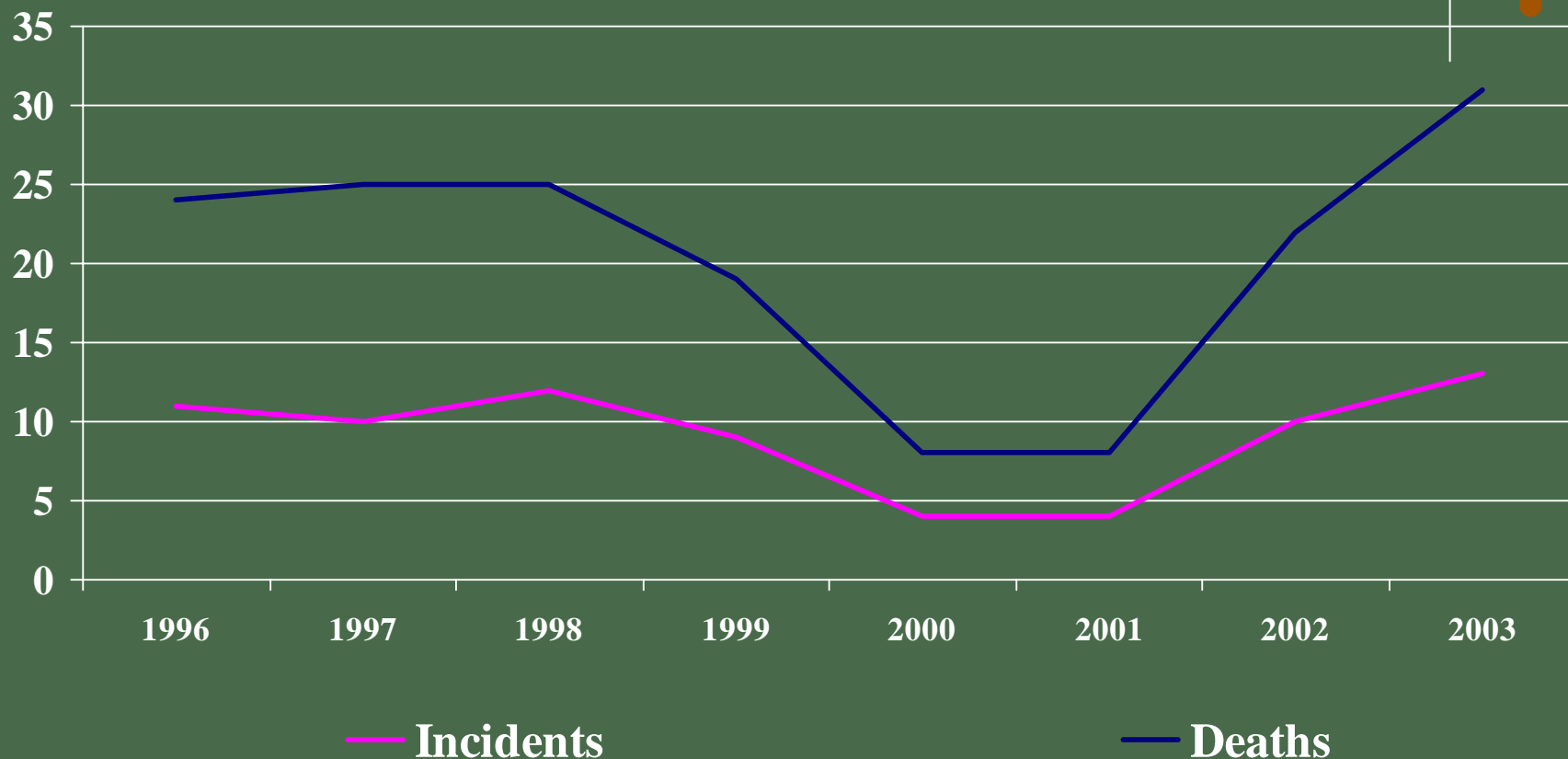
- Increasing nationally
- Often occurs when husband in care-taking role
- Untreated depression
- “Controlling” husband
- Believed to almost never be a suicide pact
- Female often shot while asleep



## Murder-suicide in New Jersey, 1996-2003

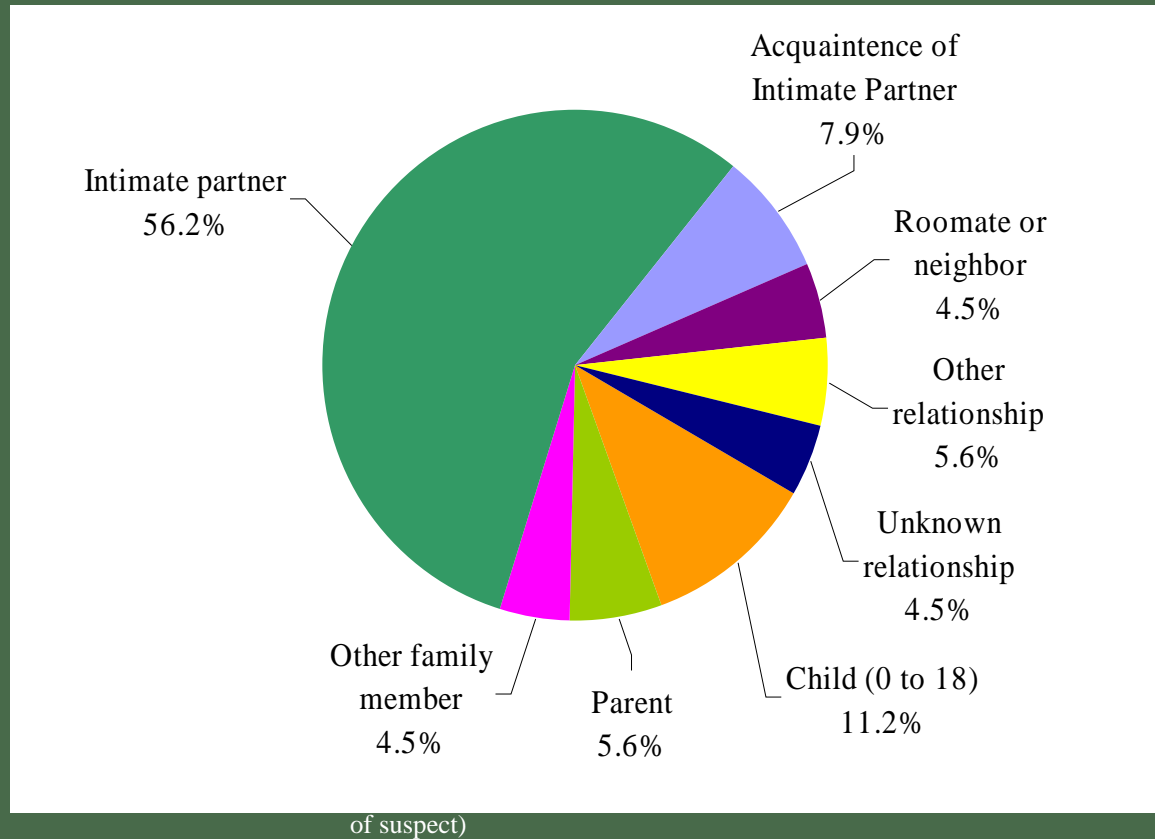
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Number of incidents	11	10	12	9	4	4	10	13	73
Number of deaths	24	25	25	19	8	8	22	31	162
Multiple victim incidents	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	3	12
Intimate Partner incidents (Past or present)	9	5	8	6	2	3	7	10	50
Parent/child or child/parent incidents (any age)	0	4	2	1	1	0	2	3	13
Number of deaths (P-C), children 0-18 yrs	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	4	10
Number of incidents, suspect over 60 yrs old	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	3	8
% incidents involving firearm	90.9	90.0	83.3	66.7	100	75.0	30.0	61.5	72.6

# Trend in murder-suicide, New Jersey, 1996-2003\*



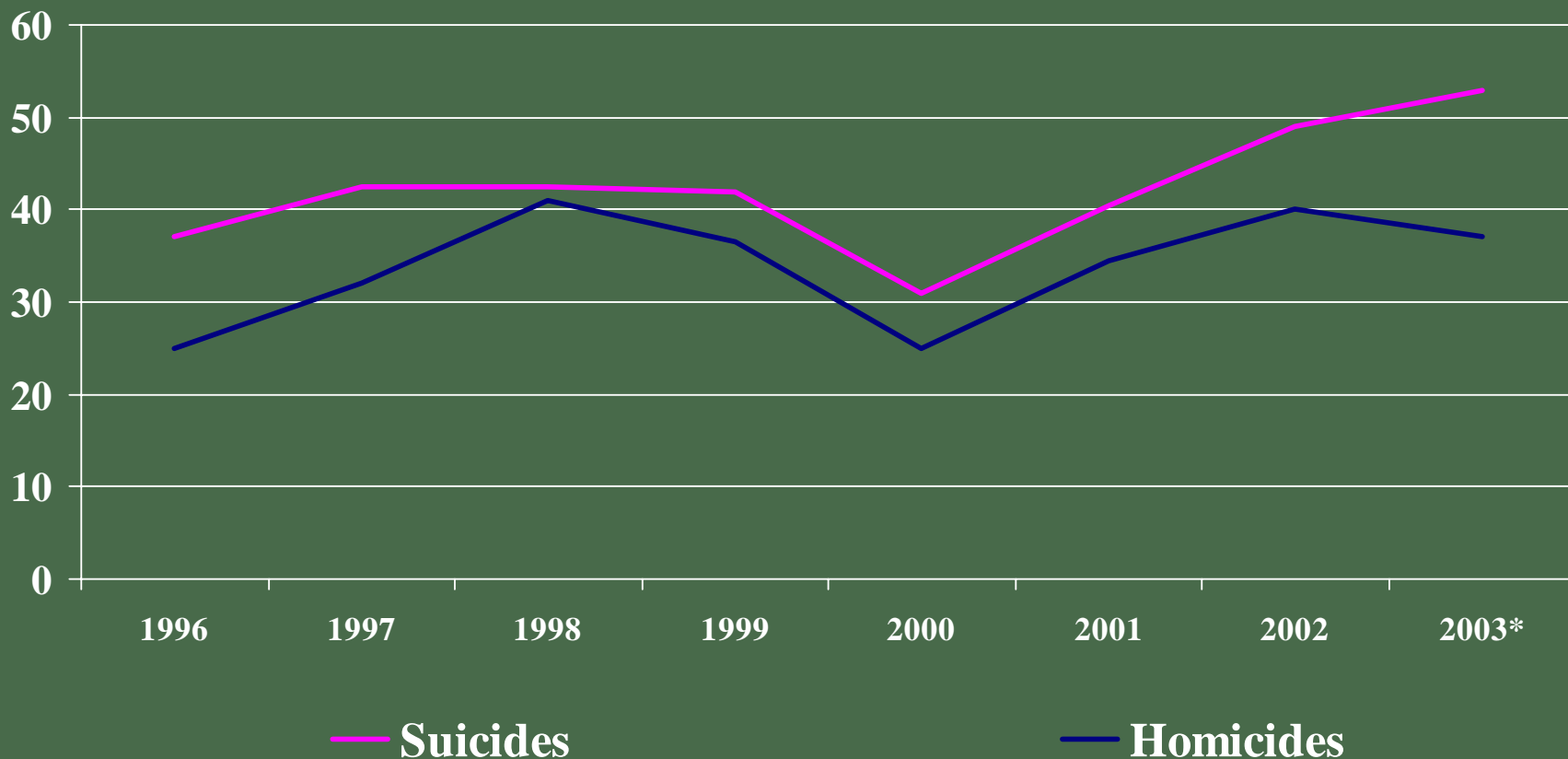
\*Data from 1996 to 2002 from Lexus-Nexis and MCD mortality data;  
2003 from NVDRS

# Victim-offender relationship in murder-suicides New Jersey, 1996-2003

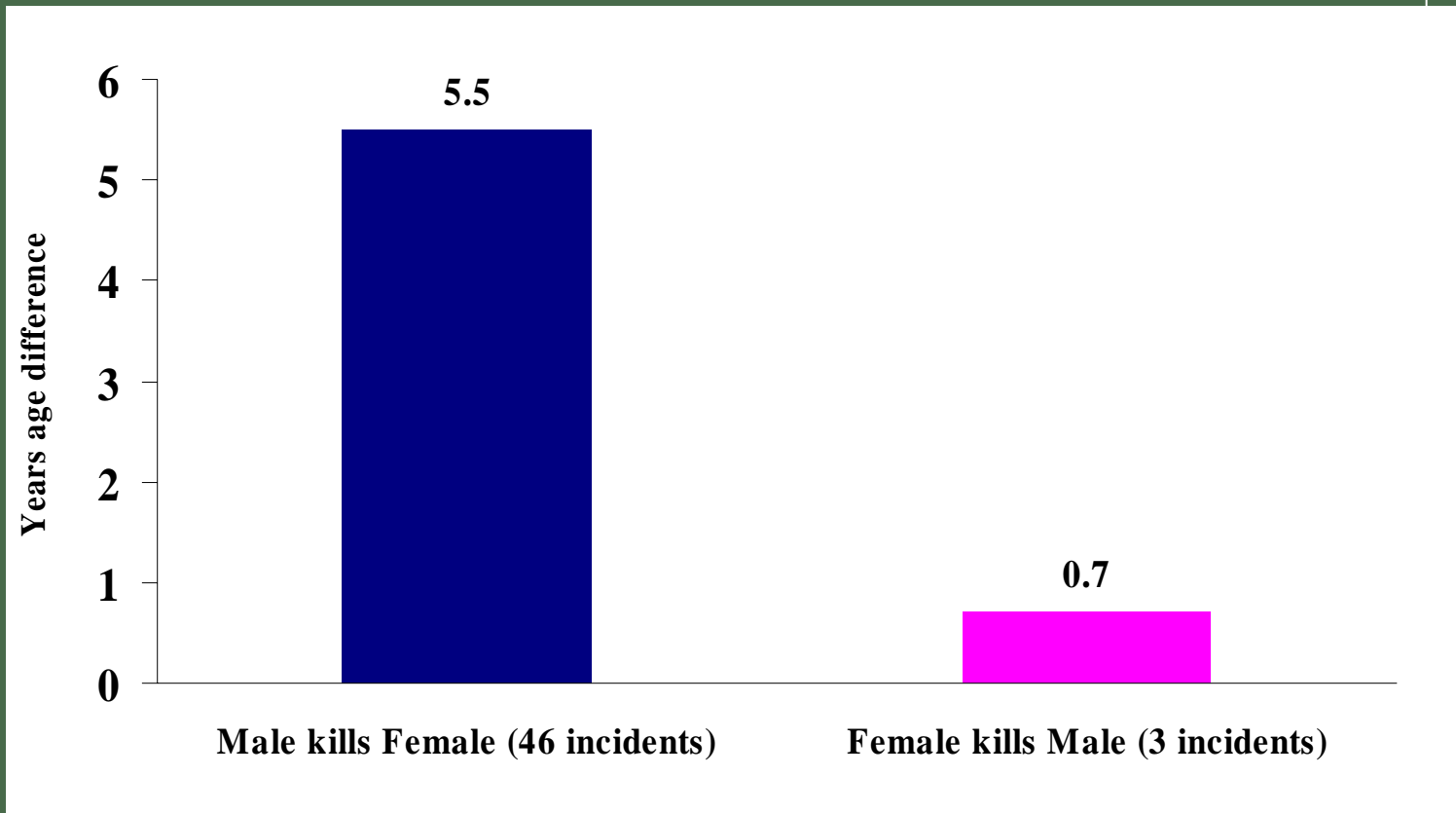


“The **victim** is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the **suspect**”

# Median age of murder-suicide victims, New Jersey, 1996-2003



# Average age differences in intimate partner murder-suicides, New Jersey, 1996-2003

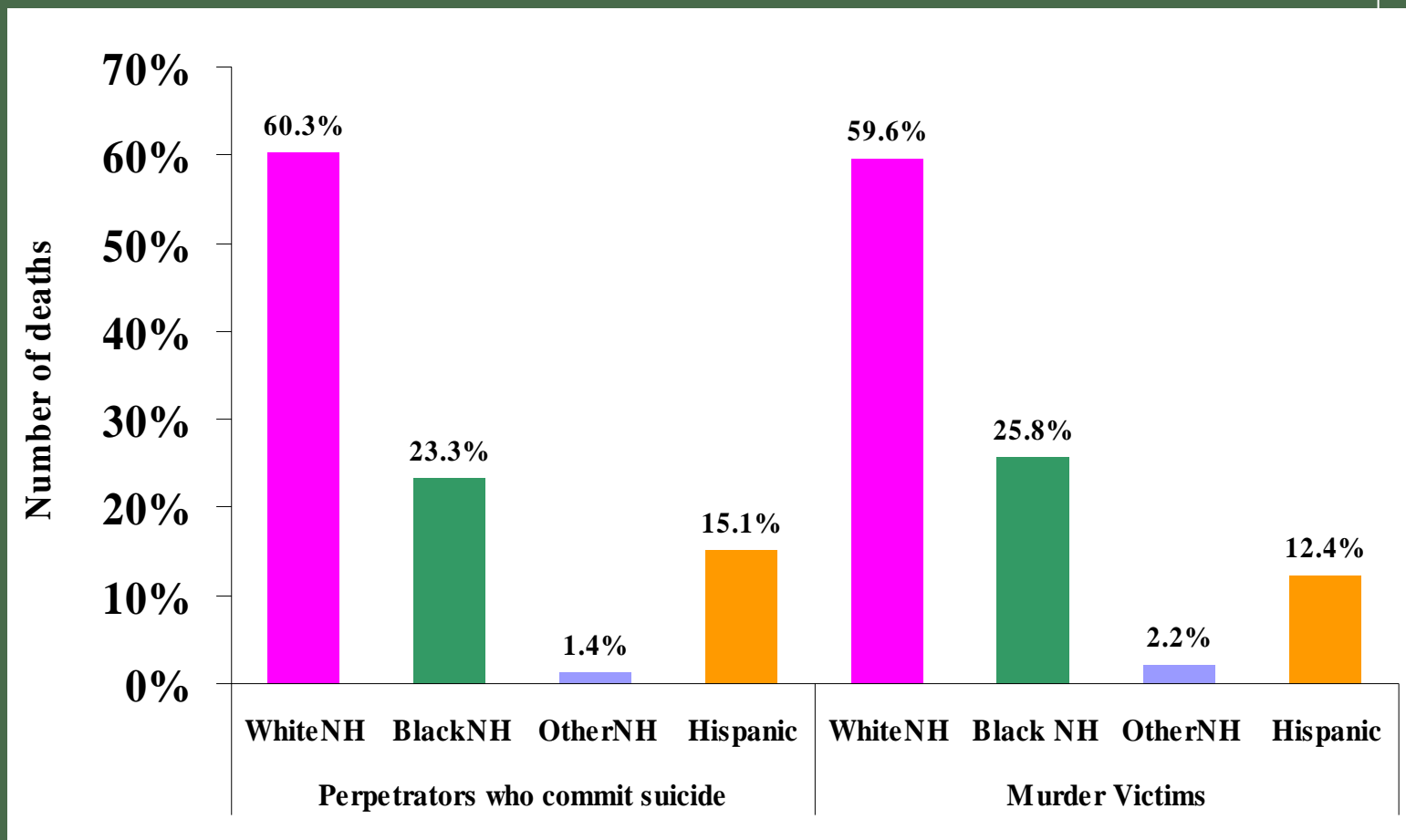


Males average 5.5 years older than the female intimate partners they kill

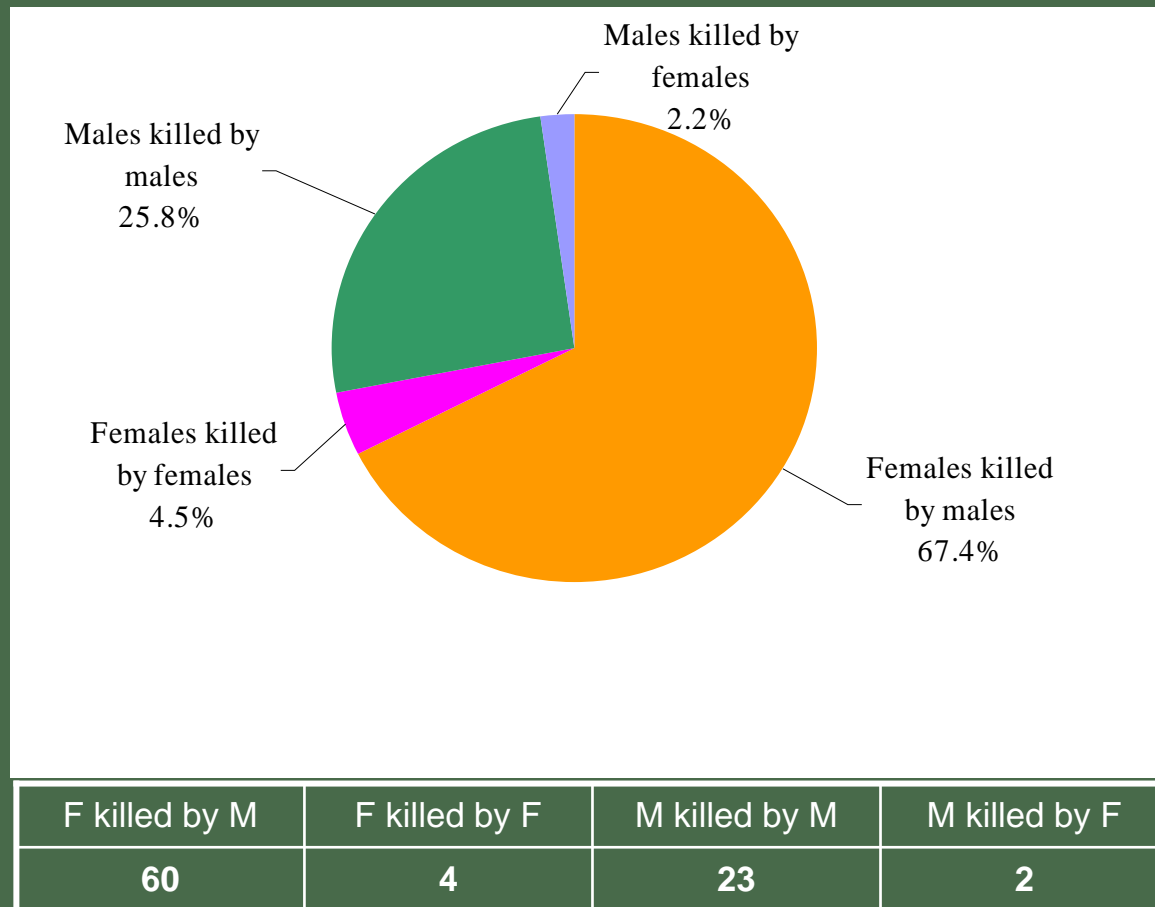
Females average less than a year older than the male intimate partners they kill



# Race and ethnicity among murder-suicide victims, New Jersey, 1996-2003



# Gender relationships in murder-suicides, New Jersey, 1996-2003



# Suicides in M/S incidents as compared with all suicides are more likely to be:



- Male
- Black
- Foreign-born
- Middle-aged
- Committed with firearms



# Murder-suicides in New Jersey, 1996-2003

## M/S suicides versus all suicides

	Suicide in M-S	All Suicides
Median age	43 years	44.5 years
% Male	93.2%	78.9%
% Foreign born	26.0%	18.2%
% White	60.3%	81.0%
% Black	23.3%	8.7%
% Hispanic	1.4%	6.7%
% Asian	15.1%	2.9%
% 18 and under	2.7%	3.1%
% 65 and over	11.0%	18.7%

# Homicides in M/S incidents as compared with all homicides are:



- Older

Also are more likely to be:

- Female
- White
- Age 65+
- Committed with firearms



# Murder-suicides in New Jersey, 1996-2003

## M/S homicides versus all homicides

	Homicide in M-S	All Homicides (excluding 9/11)
Median age	36 years	28.5 years
% Female	70.8%	23.8%
% Foreign born	22.5%	21.5%
% White	59.6%	24.9%
% Black	25.8%	54.3%
% Hispanic	12.4%	17.8%
% Asian	2.2%	1.8%
% 18 and under	11.2%	13.6%
% 65 and over	10.1%	4.7%

# Murder-suicides in New Jersey, 1996-2003



Mechanism	M-S Suicide		All Suicides		M-S Homicide		All Homicide (excluding 9/11)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Firearm	58	79.5%	1440	31.4%	69	77.5%	1535	55.1%
All other mechanisms	15	20.5%	2745	59.8%	20	22.5%	1250	44.9%

Firearm Violence	Incidents	% Incidents	Deaths	Deaths/ incident
All deaths in incident by firearm	55	75.3%	124	2.25
Homicides by firearm, suicide by other means	NONE			
Suicide by firearm, homicide by other means	3	4.1%	6	2
No death in incident by firearm	15	20.5%	32	2.13

# Circumstances of M/S Suicides versus all suicides, New Jersey, 2003



Circumstances	M-S Suicide		All Suicides	
	N	%	N	%
Perpetrator of interpersonal violence in past month	7	53.8%	13	2.2%
Intimate partner problem	4	30.8%	122	20.4%
Crisis in past two weeks	2	15.4%	91	15.2%
History of suicide attempts	1	7.8%	99	16.5%
Left suicide note	2	15.4%	177	29.5%
Physical health problem	1	7.8%	111	18.5%
Depression	1	7.8%	198	33.1%
No known circumstances	5	38.5%	122	20.4%



# Murder-suicides in New Jersey, 2003



Circumstances	M-S Homicide		All Homicides	
	N	%	N	%
Intimate partner violence-related	10	55.6%	59	13.8%
Other homicide circumstances	1	5.6%	12	2.8%
Argument over money or property	1	5.6%	13	3.0%
No known circumstances	6	33.4%	144	33.6%



# Notes about these tables and figures

- Incidents were included in this presentation if the incident either occurred in New Jersey or at least one of the deaths was a New Jersey resident, regardless of location of incident.
- The incidents were found by searching newspapers using Lexus-Nexis for 1996-2002, reviewing the medical examiner data files, and using NVDRS for 2003.
- Two incidents are included in our death listing (not shown) but not in the tables. One is the case of Andrew Cunanan; while he did commit suicide after the serial murders of 5 other people, the situation is not comparable to the acts of impulsiveness otherwise included. Likewise is an incident where a woman committed suicide while in custody awaiting extradition to NJ from PA for the murder of her sister-in-law over six months before.
- Victims under the age of 18 are listed as "Child" of the suspect where applicable. If the victim is the offspring of the killer and over 18, they are listed as family member of the killer, unless otherwise noted.